

1 variations will become apparent to those skilled in the art in light of the foregoing
2 description. Accordingly, it is intended that the present invention embrace all such
3 alternatives, modifications and variations as fall within the scope of the appended
4 claims.

5 What is claimed is:

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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

1 1. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:

2 a television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;

3 a display coupled to the set-top box for displaying output from the set-top

4 box;

5 an input device suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;

6 a database operatively coupled to the internal programmed processor, the

7 database comprising a catalog of merchandise available for purchase by a

8 consumer; and

9 catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for

10 permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise.

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12 2. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising order entry program

13 means, operating on the programmed processor, for permitting a consumer to

14 enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise.

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16 3. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a swipe card reader

17 coupled to the programmed processor to permit the consumer to enter a swipe

18 card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the catalog of merchandise.

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20 4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the input device comprises a

21 keyboard.

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1 5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display comprises a
2 television display.

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4 6. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the display comprises a high
5 definition television display.

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7 7. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the database resides on a
8 storage device situated within the set-top box, and further comprising a connection
9 to a catalog server, to thereby download updates of the catalog of merchandise to
10 the database.

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12 8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the database resides on a
13 catalog server, coupled to the set-top box via a cable television connection.

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15 9. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a printer coupled to
16 the set-top box.

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18 10. The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising means for receiving
19 updates to the database on a periodic basis.

1 11. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:

2 a digital television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;

3 a high definition television display coupled to the set-top box for displaying

4 output from the set-top box;

5 a keyboard suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;

6 a storage device situated within the set-top box;

7 a database residing on the storage device and operatively coupled to the

8 internal programmed processor, the database comprising a catalog of merchandise

9 available for purchase by a consumer;

10 means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis;

11 catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for

12 permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise;

13 order entry program means, operating on the programmed processor, for

14 permitting a consumer to enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog

15 of merchandise;

16 a swipe card reader coupled to the programmed processor to permit the

17 consumer to enter a swipe card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the

18 catalog of merchandise;

19 a cable modem coupled to a catalog server, to thereby download updates

20 of the catalog of merchandise to the database; and

21 a printer coupled to the set-top box.

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1 12. A point of sale terminal arrangement, comprising in combination:

2 a digital television set-top box having an internal programmed processor;

3 a high definition television display coupled to the set-top box for displaying

4 output from the set-top box;

5 a keyboard suitable for providing input commands to the set-top box;

6 a cable modem coupled the programmed processor to access a catalog

7 server;

8 means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis

9 a storage device situated within a catalog server accessible by the set-top

10 box using the cable modem;

11 a database residing on the storage device and operatively coupled to the

12 internal programmed processor, the database comprising a catalog of merchandise

13 available for purchase by a consumer;

14 means for receiving updates to the database on a periodic basis;

15 catalog program means, operating on the programmed processor, for

16 permitting a consumer to search the database for merchandise;

17 order entry program means, operating on the programmed processor, for

18 permitting a consumer to enter an order for merchandise appearing in the catalog

19 of merchandise;

1 a swipe card reader coupled to the programmed processor to permit the
2 consumer to enter a swipe card to effect payment for merchandise appearing in the
3 catalog of merchandise; and
4 a printer coupled to the set-top box.